



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



VETERANS DAY AT THE FAIR

SDDVA's team of Erin Brown, Gerald Lemme, Kevin Swanson, Erin Bultje, Jeri Smith, Mike Maske, Sheila Shaffer, and Kevin Bowen manned the SDDVA Benefits table at the Veterans Building during the South Dakota State Fair. County VSOs also partnered with the booth. Veterans Service Organizations also had a booth in the building and assisted veterans during the Fair.

Secretary Zimmerman was the keynote speaker during the Veterans Day at the Fair program on Thursday. His message focused on veterans taking care of veterans. South Dakota has a great network that has built a legacy of taking care of the men and women who have donned the uniform.

Secretary Zimmerman also read Governor Daugaard's proclamation for "Veterans Day at the State Fair." Gov. Daugaard asked that all South Dakotans participate as fully as possible in the spirit of this day, remembering those who made the sacrifices, those who gave their lives, those who are disabled, those who are still missing, those who are currently serving in harms way, and all those whose lives were interrupted by their service to our country in the armed forces.

Warren Aas was presented the Chet Sorenson Award by the South Dakota Veterans Council, in recognition of a South Dakota Veteran that has shown outstanding dedication to the task of serving other veterans. The South Dakota Veterans Council is made up of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Vietnam Veterans of America.



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SDPB OFFERS DVD OF SDDVA'S ROC MUTUAL DEFENSE COMMEMORATIVE BADGE HONORING CEREMONY

South Dakota Public Broadcasting now has a DVD available with coverage of SDDVA's Republic of China Mutual Defense Commemorative Badge honoring ceremony. The DVD can be ordered at <http://shop.sdpb.org>.

Photos from the event can be found on SDDVA's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SDDVA/>.



United States-Republic of China Mutual Defense Commemorative Badge Honoring Ceremony

Cold War veterans from South Dakota are honored.

\$19.95

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ADD TO CART

VIEW HEALING WALL CEREMONY

The Wall that Heals opening ceremony, that was recently held in Chamberlain, can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzyWez9OBX0>.



SCREENINGS OF THE VIETNAM WAR



Communities throughout South Dakota are hosting screenings of “The Vietnam War.” The screenings are approximately 60 minutes long. Remaining screenings will be held at the following locations:

Sept 6—6:00 pm SDPB Black Hills Bureau—Rapid City (415 Main Street)

Sept 7—6:00 pm Milbank Highschool Theater (1011 E. Park Avenue)

Sept 12—7:00 pm Edith B. Siegrist Public Library—Vermillion (18 Church Street)

Sept 23—5:30 pm Deadwood Mountain Grand (1906 Deadwood Mountain Drive)

Ken Burns and Lynn Novick’s ten-part, 18-hour documentary series, *THE VIETNAM WAR*, tells the epic story of one of the most consequential, divisive, and controversial events in American history as it has never before been told on film. Visceral and immersive, the series explores the human dimensions of the war through revelatory testimony of nearly 80 witnesses from all sides—Americans who fought in the war and others who opposed it, as well as combatants and civilians from North and South Vietnam.

“The Vietnam War was a decade of agony that took the lives of more than 58,000 Americans,” said Ken Burns. “Not since the Civil War have we as a country been so torn apart. Stories and discussions in our communities can move us toward understanding and healing.”

The Vietnam War premieres Sunday September 17, 2017 at 8/7c on SDPB and PBS stations nationwide. Copies of the DVD’s can be purchased at:

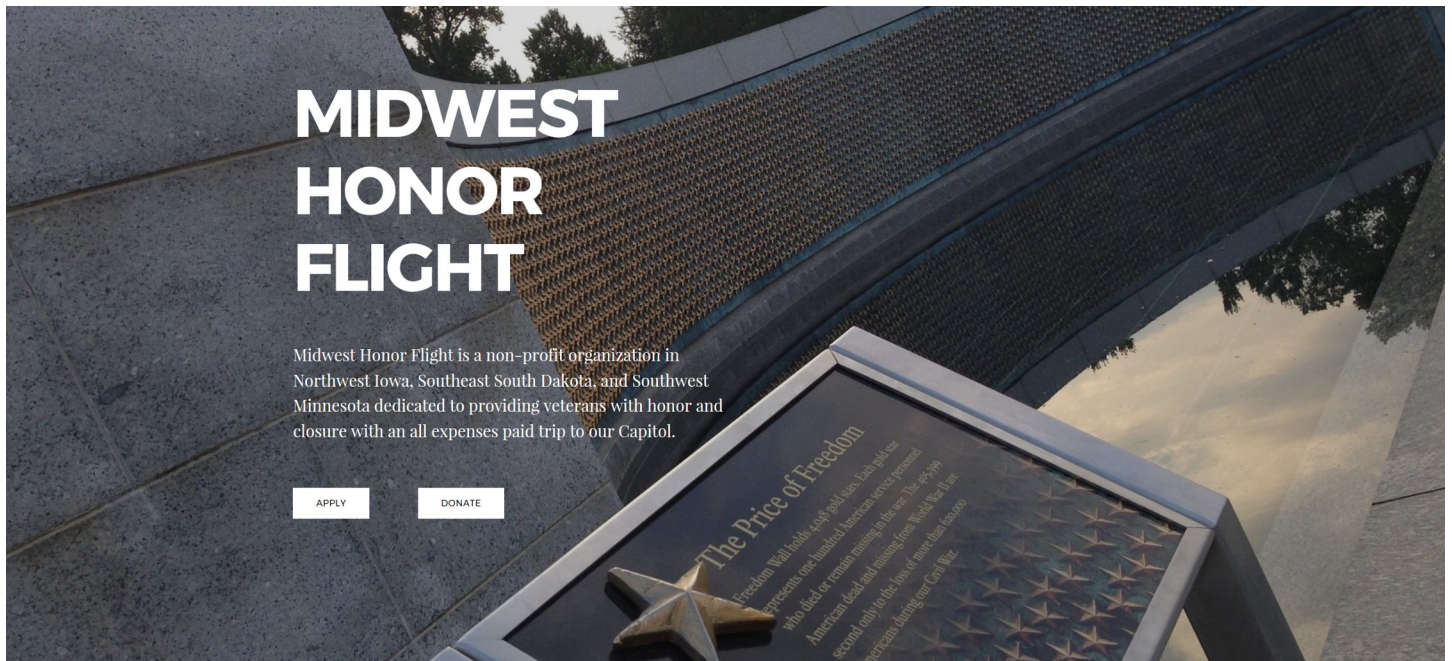
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MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

Recently, there has been a lot of information in the news on “Honor Flight.” This honor flight program is called Midwest Honor Flight. You can learn more about their program at: <http://www.midwesthonorflight.org/about.html>. Veterans or guardians can make application at: <http://www.midwesthonorflight.org/veterans.html> and/or <http://www.midwesthonorflight.org/guardians.html>.



SD CIVIL AIR PATROL SENDING AIRCRAFT TO TEXAS

The South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is sending two aircraft with flight crews to Texas to assist FEMA with disaster recovery operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

The first of two South Dakota Wing Cessna-182/G1000 departed on Wednesday. The three-person flight crews will consist of a mission pilot, a mission scanner, and an aerial photographer.

The aircraft will be used for aerial photographic surveys of the severely affected Gulf Coast region to assist FEMA and other emergency management officials to assess the extent of the damage and prioritize recovery operations.

SD GUARD, SURINAME ENGINEERS PARTNER TOGETHER TO RENOVATE SCHOOL

Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard and the Suriname Defense Force partnered together to renovate portions of the O.S. Majosteege 3 School in Paramaribo, Aug. 13-24.

The renovation project, part of the Suriname and South Dakota State Partnership Program, provided an annual training opportunity for SDARNG engineer units and further developed partnerships with the SDF, while simultaneously assisting with a community need.

Working together was a team of 10 soldiers from the 155th Engineer Company, one from the 211th Engineer Company, and about a dozen engineers with the Suriname Defense Force. The service members focused on restroom improvements and the addition of a teacher's office.

The service members spent nine days on the renovations, which included panel construction, electrical, plumbing, tiling and painting.

Since 2006, soldiers from both countries have conducted over 100 subject matter exchanges through the program, which have benefitted men and women from both organizations to gain knowledge and experience in both military operations and civilian culture.

Throughout any particular year, about 20-30 service members from either South Dakota or from Suriname, travel to each other's respective countries and engage in about 10 subject matter exchanges covering a wide spectrum of topics.

Funding for the project was provided by U.S. Southern Command and all materials and supplies were purchased in Suriname.

For the past 11 years, the SDNG and SDF have successfully partnered together to establish a security cooperation relationship in coordination with USSOUTHCOM under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The partnership has flourished during the past decade becoming a model for mutual security cooperation.



196TH MANEUVER ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE PLAYS UNIQUE ROLE IN TODAY'S ARMY

At least once a year, it's not unusual to see the Sioux Falls National Guard armory parking lot transformed into a sprawling complex of trucks, generators and combat tents. The tents go up quickly, sometimes in the space of a few hours. The generators run around the clock. Inside is a state-of-the-art command post system, in which virtual troop movements are tracked on physical and digital maps. In one tent, plans are made for transporting simulated detainees. In another, plans for repairing roads or meeting with local leaders. Battlefield intelligence is delivered up to the minute, ensuring Soldiers can respond immediately to any situation.

It is a complex operation, and nothing more than what the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, has come to expect. From putting up the tents to controlling troop movements and a tactical combat force, every part of the operation is an integral part of the Sioux Falls-based unit's mission: protect and support everything behind the front line of combat, and be ready to move when it does.

The headquarters unit is only a small part of that mission. When deployed, a maneuver enhancement brigade consists of multiple units such as mechanized infantry, military police, engineers, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN). In fact, the actual makeup of a MEB will change depending on the mission. By design, the unit can be tailored to the needs of the battlefield. The forces that deploy with a MEB could be significantly different from one deployment to the next. That customization distinguishes a MEB from other units in the Army. Traditionally, unit structures, like those of brigade combat teams, remain static across deployments.

A MEB is a relatively new concept by Army standards. The first was established in 2006, with the 196th following shortly after in 2007. The idea was to increase the Army's modularity – its ability to combine forces of multiple specialties into a single, functional unit that could be tailored to a battlefield in order to take command and control of a division or corps support area. It sounds simple, but in practice it entails a wide variety of tasks. It means protecting roads so troops and supplies can reach the front line; rebuilding infrastructure damaged in previous battles; defeating the enemy forces that remain in the area or try to move back into it; transporting detainees; disposing explosive ordnance; or conducting civil affairs.



Upcoming Events

Sept 2—DAV and 727th 13th Annual Poker Run—Brookings
 Sept 8 NCPVA Pistol Shoot—Badlands Gun Range (1600 W. Russell Street—Sioux Falls)
 Sept 9-10—PVA Trap Shoot—Crooks Gun Club—Sioux Falls
 Sept 11—Doug Brown Memorial Pheasant Hunt (Top Gun Hunting Ranch—Howard)
 Sept 11—VA Black Hills Mental Health Summit
 Sept 11—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—Brown County Court House—Aberdeen—4:00 pm (CST)
 Sept 13—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—Watertown Elks Lodge—600 E. Kemp Ave—4:00 pm
 Sept 14—Watertown Veterans/First Responders Appreciation Day—SD Army National Guard, BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center
 Sept 15 POW/MIA Program—Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park—6:30 pm (CST)
 Sept 18—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—Wagner SDNG Armory—4:00 pm (CST)
 Sept 20—Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters (209 N. Garfield in Sioux Falls) 10:00 am (CST)
 Sept 22—Veterans Stand Down—VFW Post 628—Sioux Falls (3601 S. Minnesota Ave)—9:00 am (CST)
 Sept 24—Gold Star Mothers Day
 Sept 25—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—VA Sioux Falls (2nd Floor Primary Care Addition—4:00 pm (CST)
 Sept 26-28 National Women Veterans Art Exhibit—VA Sioux Falls—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CST)
 Sept 25-26—Aim to Win—Hunters Pointe Shooting Complex—Humboldt
 Sept 29—Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CST)
 Oct 6-8—Fall VFW Conference—Oacoma—Cedar Shores
 Oct 7—Homecomings for VFW State Commander Williamson and VFW State Auxiliary President Alm—Cedar Shores—Oacoma—6:00 pm (CT)
 Nov 4—Public Agent Orange Forum—Meade County Court House in Sturgis (2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers—1300 Sherman Street) 9:00 am and 1:00 pm (MT)
 Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg
 Nov 11—SDSU Military Appreciation Day—Kickoff at 2:00 pm (CT)
 Nov 11—American Heroes Outdoors Veterans Day Banquet—Aberdeen Elks Lodge 1046—5:00 pm (CST)
 Nov 11-12—Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat—Joy Ranch—Watertown
 2018
 Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre
 Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
 Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish
 Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

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